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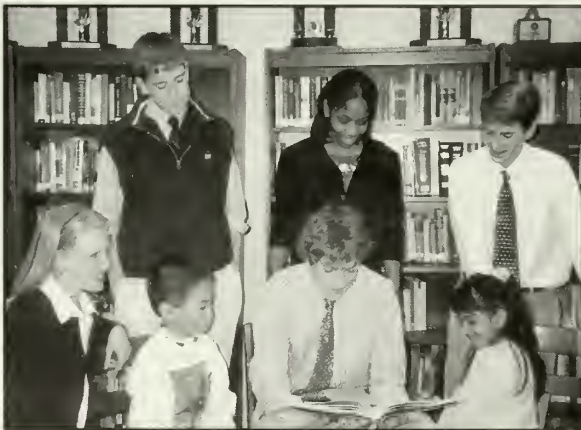
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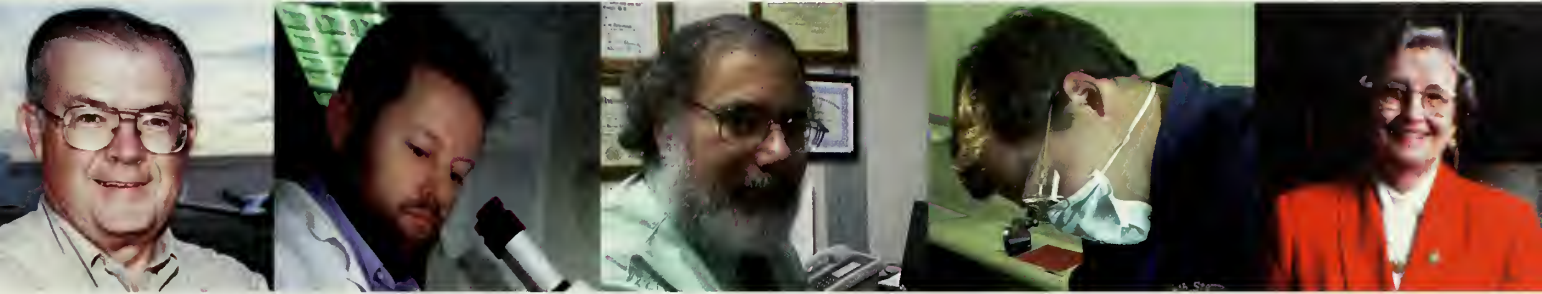
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Several sweeping initiatives are bringing significant change to the Medical College of Georgia, including a one-time early-retirement program. Medical College of Georgia President Francis J. Tedesco and three deans are among those taking advantage of early retirement. In this edition of *Medical College of Georgia Today*, these key players and others reflect on the changes they anticipate as the university embarks on a new era.

This edition also presents a tribute to Dr. Tedesco's 12-year tenure as president. MCG has grown dramatically in the past 12 years, and few people have played a larger role in shaping the university's future than Dr. Tedesco. We hope you enjoy revisiting highlights of his tenure.

Indeed, this edition of the magazine pays as much homage to MCG's past as to its future. We wouldn't be the preeminent health sciences university we are today without the tireless efforts of many who came before. Dr. Lois Ellison has been appointed Medical Historian in Residence to chronicle their efforts and ensure they receive the recognition they deserve. Read about her many historical projects in this edition of *MCG Today*.

What could be more appropriate than meshing the past with the future as MCG begins the 21st century? As Dr. Darrell Kirch, dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president for clinical activities, notes, "This is an incredibly exciting time to be at MCG."

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About the Cover

Dr. Francis J. Tedesco with wife Luann and daughter Jennifer at the beginning of his presidency in 1988 (above) and this spring.

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AT A GLANCE

Sky High

The thought of getting on a roller coaster turns Tina Hembree's stomach inside out. But ask the 26-year-old to take you 6,000 feet into the sky for a flight on a small plane and she's all smiles.

Flying is second nature for the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry junior who gives lessons to help finance her education. Tina, who learned to fly as an undergraduate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, calls her hobby addictive.

"It's one of those things you want to do more of than you can afford to do," she said with a laugh. "So I kind of got into the commercial aspect of it to keep up my flying without having to pay for it, and I got into a little bit of banner-towing over the Braves stadium. Then I got into the instructive side of it."

Tina spends as much time flying and giving lessons as her schooling will allow. Most of her students are in their 20s and 30s and excited about

Tina Hembree



learning to maneuver a plane. "Usually, it's people who tell you they have always wanted to do it, but they didn't realize it was something normal people did," she said. "People think rich people do this. It's not until they meet someone who does it and they can say, 'You know, that person's no different from me.' If you can take them out to the airport, put them in the airplane and take them for a ride, then it becomes tangible and usually you get them hooked pretty easily that way."

Hidden Culprit

When a patient—particularly a child—develops unexplained, progressive paralysis, physicians should consider a tick as the potential culprit, according to Medical College of Georgia researchers.

If tick paralysis is confused with similar neurologic conditions, the only effective treatment—tick removal—won't be utilized, according to Dr. Michael W. Felz, family medicine physician at MCG and principal author of the study published in the Jan. 13 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"This is not a well-known syndrome, but it should be because of the potential for disaster if it is not considered in the differential diagnosis," Dr. Felz said. Children are especially vulnerable to the potentially lethal nerve toxin produced by a pregnant, feeding tick.

Dr. Felz; Dr. Carrie Davis Smith, a pediatrician in Toccoa, Ga.; and Dr. Thomas R. Swift, chairman of the MCG Department of Neurology, authored the study profiling the case of a 6-year-old who came to MCG in June 1998 unable to walk without support. Her illness had begun the day before with tingling fingers and leg weakness. As time passed, the weakness worsened. "She had paralysis in her legs, then in her arms, then her swallowing, speech and breathing weakened," Dr. Felz said.

Dr. Smith, then a second-year pediatrics resi-

dent at MCG, recalled the similarities between Guillain-Barre syndrome—the suspected diagnosis—and tick paralysis. She then found a large, flesh-colored tick near the back of the child's scalp. The child recovered rapidly after the tick was removed.

"The conclusion for patients and physicians is that a diagnosis of Guillain-Barre syndrome requires a careful body search to exclude a hidden, engorged tick," Dr. Felz said.

Lasting Solution



The Medical College of Georgia is evaluating a durable new total ceramic hip replacement that may offer even the youngest patients a lasting solution to related pain and disability.

MCG is one of 11 sites in the country evaluating the latest of these devices that replaces a diseased or damaged hip joint with a ceramic-covered ball and ceramic-lined cup device that has been used successfully in other countries but has yet to be approved for general use in the United States.

"We are hoping to make this a one-time operation," Dr. R. Scott Corpe, orthopedic surgeon, said. Over the next two years, he and Dr. Timothy R. Young, co-directors of the MCG Center for Joint Replacement, will enroll about 100 active people age 21 and older in the study in which half will get the total ceramic hip and the remainder will get the current standard: a ceramic-covered head against a polyethylene (hard plastic) cup liner.

The latter lasts 10 to 15 years, often necessitating multiple surgeries. Related difficulties include bone loss at the surgery site, scarring of surrounding soft tissue and accumulating debris as the plastic cup liner wears. "Today we are looking for a solution to the problem of wear," Dr. Corpe said, and experience with the ceramic-

on-ceramic replacement shows nearly a 1,000 percent decrease in wear over today's standard hip replacement.

Gamma Knife® Arrives

Technology that makes it possible to destroy some tumors and correct other brain aberrations without ever opening the skull is in use at the Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics and Children's Medical Center.

The Gamma Knife® precisely focuses the power of 201 sources of radiation from constantly emitting cobalt sources at a target site, dramatically reducing surgery time and enabling many complex brain operations to be performed as outpatient procedures.

MCG is the second facility in Georgia and the first in North America affiliated with a children's hospital to obtain a Gamma Knife®, said Dr. Mark Lee, chief of the Section of Neurosurgery.

The non-invasive approach of the Gamma Knife®—called stereotactic radiosurgery—allows focused irradiation in a very small area, said Dr. Joseph R. Smith, director of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Traditional radiation therapy for cancer typically irradiates a tumor site and a significant amount of surrounding healthy tissue, said Dr. W. Chris Sheils, chief of the MCG Section of Radiation Oncology. That destruction of healthy tissue limits the amount of radiation that can be given at any one time, so the dose must be delivered over a number of treatment sessions, generally ranging from five to 35.

The Gamma Knife® enables a one-time dose that essentially equals the cumulative dose a patient receives from more standard therapy, he said. This therapy can

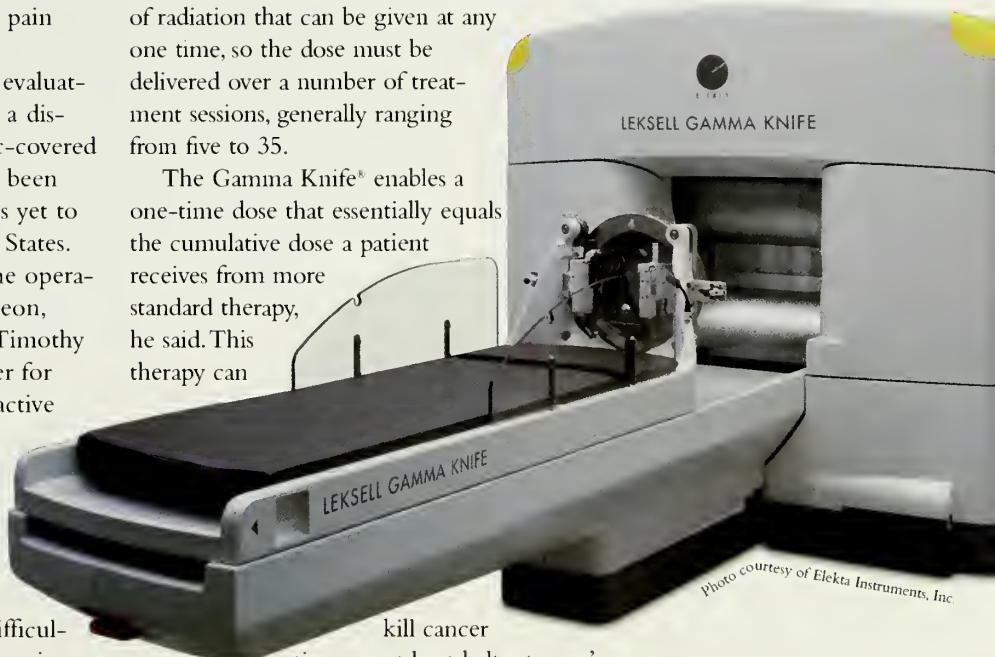


Photo courtesy of Elekta Instruments, Inc.

kill cancer tissue or at least halt a tumor's growth. Magnetic resonance imaging and computer tomography scans are used to pinpoint the target site.

MCG's new Gamma Knife® is manufactured by Sweden-based Elekta.



The Tede

Highlights of Dr. Tedesco's Career

- 1968 Named to Alpha Omega Alpha
- 1969 Cum laude graduate of St. Louis University School of Medicine
- 1978 Joins MCG faculty as associate professor of medicine and chief of the Section of Gastroenterology
- 1983 Receives Eddie Palmer Award for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
- 1984 Named MCG Vice President for Clinical Activities
- 1985 Named President of American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
- 1986 Receives Georgia Division of American Cancer Society Certificate of Appreciation
- 1986 Receives American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award in Continuing Medical Education
- 1986 Named Interim Dean of the MCG School of Medicine
- 1987 Named Chairman of the National Digestive Diseases Advisory Board
- 1988 Named President of the Medical College of Georgia
- 1988 Receives MCG School of Medicine Outstanding Faculty Award
- 1990 Named Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club of Augusta
- 1992 Named Chairman of the Governor's Health Strategies Council
- 1993 Receives Fairfield University Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award
- 1993 Receives American Society for Gastrointestinal Association Rudolf Schindler Award
- 1993 Named to *Georgia Trend's* 100 Most Influential Georgians list
- 1994 Named Man of Achievement
- 1994 Named to *Georgia Trend's* 100 Most Influential Georgians list
- 1995 Named to MCG Kappa Lambda Chapter
- 1996 Receives Alumni Merit Award from St. Louis University School of

The Medical College of Georgia has experienced such dramatic growth in the past 12 years that many people scarcely recognize the campus when returning after a long absence. Of course, many have contributed to

Medicine

- 1996 Named to *Georgia Trend's* 100 Most Influential Georgians list
- 1997 Receives Georgia Economic Developers Association State of Georgia/Spirit of Georgia Certificate of Recognition
- 1997 Named to *Georgia Trend's* Plus 75 list of Movers and Shakers/Education Leaders
- 1998 John F. Beard Award created in honor of Dr. Tedesco and Dr. Mark F. Williams
- 1998 Receives Georgia Economic Developers Association Spirit of Georgia Award



co Years

that growth, but few people have played a larger role than Medical College of Georgia President Francis J. Tedesco in shaping its future. As Dr. Tedesco's tenure nears its end, *Medical College of Georgia Today* presents this tribute to his presidency.

12 Years of Progress at a Glance

- MCG Foundation assets increase from less than \$10 million to more than \$100 million—a tenfold increase
- MCG establishes 26 endowed chairs
- MCG endowment grows to more than \$80 million, the third-largest in total dollars of any University System of Georgia institution
- MCG Foundation contributes more than \$23 million to the institution's education and general operating budgets
- MCG has an estimated economic impact of approximately \$1 billion
- Ambulatory Care Center/Specialized Care Center opens
- Interdisciplinary Research Building opens
- Children's Medical Center opens
- Telemedicine Center established
- Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics established
- Vascular Biology Center established
- Center for Senior Health established
- Center for Sports Medicine established
- MCG ranks first in many areas of student satisfaction, including individual faculty attention, in a survey of University System of Georgia students
- Student Wellness Center approved



THE CHANGING

CHRISTINE I

Walk into the office of any retiring Medical College of Georgia administrator and you'll be hard-pressed to find evidence of imminent departure.

Keyboards are clicking furiously, fax machines are humming steadily, e-mail is flying at warp speed.... The proverbial day at the beach may be right around the corner, but for now, there's work to be done.

"I haven't had time to think about what I'll do after retirement," said retiring School of Allied Health Sciences Dean Biagio Vericella. "My responsibility is to ensure the school remains in excellent educational shape, and that's where my energies are going."

Approximately 700 MCG employees are taking advan-

This artwork depicting architectural and sculptural elements of MCG, from old to new, is featured on the cover of this year's Homecoming brochure. The artist, Steven J. Harrison, is a 1970 graduate of the MCG Department of Medical Illustration and chairman of the MCG Department of Medical Illustration.



FACE OF MCG

RILEY DERISO

tage of early retirement—a one-time program authorized by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents to help offset an MCG Hospital and Clinics budget deficit—and the departures will affect virtually every segment of the campus.

“Surely the loss of a tremendous amount of institutional memory and intellectual talent will be felt for a time,” said retiring MCG President Francis J. Tedesco during his 1999 State of the University Address. “And those [who] remain at the institution will have to do the same amount of work with fewer colleagues to assist them. But I contend that these drawbacks also present an opportunity...an opportunity for us to create a more contemporary, more efficient institution...an opportunity for us to truly change, in positive and innovative ways, how we educate our students, conduct research and provide care to our patients.”

MCG’s deans—three of whom are retiring—echo his sentiments. “Out of this, we’ll get people bringing new energy, ideas and initiatives,” said retiring School of Dentistry Dean David R. Myers.

Simply put, Dr. Vericella

said, “Someone took a chance on us. Now, it’s time for us to take a chance on someone new.”

“Faculty turnover is a normal part of the life of a university,” noted Dr. Darrell G. Kirch, who is staying on as dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president for clinical activities. “It helps bring new ideas and new energy to the campus. The early-retirement plan was structured with staggering departure dates and the ability to rehire key people, so we will be able to weather the transition extremely well.

“We will be bringing in a significant number of talented new colleagues with the potential to take our university to the highest level it’s ever achieved,” Dr. Kirch said. “The early-retirement program, together with other changes taking place on campus, are tools that will put us in an extremely good position to continue to build excellence in our programs.”

And although the cumulative losses seem overwhelming, MCG administrators counsel a bit of perspective. “Fifteen percent of our employees will be new,” said Dr. Vericella. “That means 85 percent of our people are

staying. A stable core in each department will remain.”

“In the School of Nursing, early retirement went across the board,” said retiring School of Nursing Dean Vickie A. Lambert. “We’re not losing a critical mass in any area.”

And she is optimistic about MCG’s potential to recruit second-to-none faculty. “True, lots of nursing schools are trying to recruit faculty,” she said. “But not every school is a health sciences university with a reputation like ours. We have something special to offer.”

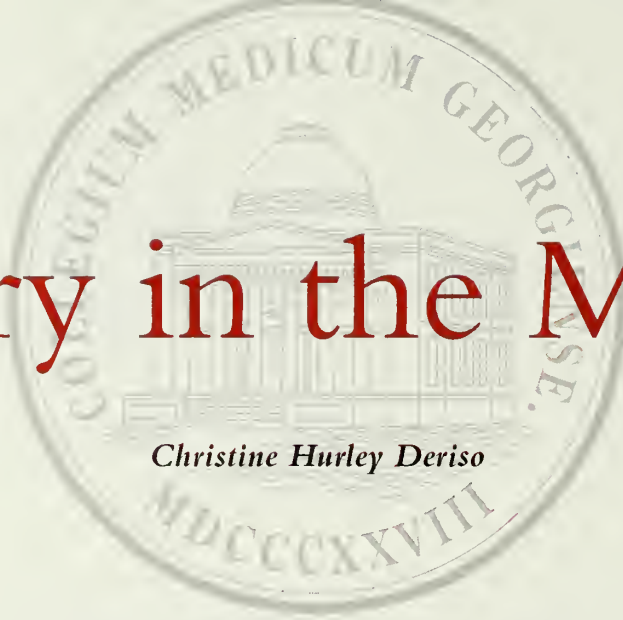
The MCG administration is working hard to ensure seamless transitions, with the top priority of maintaining educational excellence.

“We have a reputation for turning out excellent, quality graduates,” said Dr. Vericella. “That will continue and help us recruit similar people. There will be a learning curve, but we will recruit very strong faculty. We have such a strong foundation to build on; for instance, Allied Health Sciences recently obtained its first endowed chair, and we are becoming increasingly involved in research. The changes should strengthen our educational mission.”

Dr. Lambert recently conducted a brainstorming retreat with her nursing faculty to chart the school’s course. “We had specific groups talking about how we will carry out our missions,” she said. “Our faculty came up with very creative ideas. We’re losing some very seasoned faculty; that’s the hardest part. But when I look at the history of this school and how it has overcome obstacles in the past, it’s clear our faculty has always risen to the occasion.”

Indeed, said Dr. Tedesco, MCG has a proud history of triumphing in times of transition. “We didn’t emerge as one of the nation’s oldest medical schools by buckling to challenges,” he said. “Look at our history. We survived a four-year closure between the War Between the States. We survived Flexner’s 1909 report on medical education. We survived the Depression, when the nationwide financial crisis prompted a regents’ decision to close the medical school. And we’ll survive this.”

Mixed emotions inevitably accompany change, Dr. Kirch said, but in his case, one emotion predominates: “This is an incredibly exciting time to be at MCG,” he said.



History in the Making

Christine Hurley Deriso

Ask Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine alumni about their alma mater and you'll tap a verita-

ble wellspring of vivid memories.

Dr. Allan Stocks ('67), for instance, remembers his psychiatry lectures as if he'd attended them yesterday. The lec-

tures were held at 8 a.m. Saturdays—not exactly prime time for class attendance. But the professor—recently deceased MCG School of Medicine alumnus Dr.



Corbett Thigpen—was so spellbinding that attendance was standing room only. Dr. Thigpen even whipped out a few magic tricks occasionally for a touch of levity.

A lasting MCG memory of Dr. Carl R. Hartrampf ('56) involves his backyard, of all things. When the former Newton Building was torn down during his medical education, the industrious student gathered some of the discarded bricks and built a patio for his home.

Dr. Leila Denmark ('28) has nothing but fond memories, her status as the sole female in her class notwithstanding. Despite her minority status, she says her classmates were thoroughly supportive—though she remembers their shock and disappointment when she married her sweetheart 72 hours after graduating. They figured she'd never use her degree. (They miscalculated on a grand scale; at age 102, she's still a practicing pediatrician.)

Dr. Lois T. Ellison ('50) considers these memories nothing short of priceless, and she wants to preserve them for posterity. "Our alumni have the most tremendous stories about their days at MCG," she says. "I go to alumni meetings and hear them all the time. They're just wonderful, and they need to be recorded."

Few things are closer to Dr. Ellison's heart than the history of MCG. She's witnessed much of that history firsthand: the opening of Talmadge Hospital, the invention of the Hamilton Manometer to measure blood pressure, world-renowned advances in endocrinology, MCG's transformation to a comprehensive health sciences university, the astonishing growth of the campus in the past few years.... Dr. Ellison also has made history in her own right, including helping develop the cardiopulmonary lab, where MCG's first catheterizations and blood gases were performed. Her husband, Dr. Robert G. Ellison Sr., MCG Charbonnier Professor Emeritus, performed Georgia's first open-heart procedures in 1956.

Dr. Ellison, associate vice president for planning (hospital and clinics), will retire this year as Professor Emeritus

and Provost Emeritus. As a beneficiary of MCG's early-retirement program, she notes with a laugh, "I've always liked to break records. I think I'm setting a record by being the first 76-year-old to take early retirement." But she'll continue her service to MCG as the university's Medical Historian in Residence, taking on several projects to help preserve MCG's rich history. Her projects include:

- Compiling a book of MCG School of Medicine alumni remembrances, capturing stories such as those of Drs. Stocks, Hartrampf and Denmark. She invites alumni to contact her via phone (706-721-4013), fax (706-721-4012), e-mail (ellisonl@mail.mcg.edu) or mail (AE-3055, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Ga., 30912) and share their stories about MCG. "If they put it in writing, it doesn't have to be a finished paper," she says. "My secretary and I will pull it all together."

- Writing a history of MCG Hospital, which opened in 1956 as Eugene Talmadge Memorial Hospital. "I don't think most people really know the tremendous effort that went into creating a teaching hospital for the Medical College of Georgia," she says. "The founders knew we had an educational mission, and they wanted to make sure that mission was protected. They knew that the best educational environment for students is a hospital in which the patient comes first, and they worked very hard to make that happen." She wants to chronicle their efforts and how the hospital has shaped the university through the years.

- Writing a history of women graduates of the MCG School of Medicine. The subject is particularly close to her heart; when Dr. Ellison enrolled in the MCG School of Medicine in 1943, she was one of three women in class of 75. "We've had 75 years of women graduates," Dr. Ellison says. "Let's see how it turned out. I'd like to write about their lives and careers."

- Writing a series of articles of School of Medicine alumni with tremendous political influence. For instance, Dr. Lamartine G. Hardman Sr. (School of Medicine class of 1876) was elected

governor of Georgia at age 70 and served two terms. His vision changed the course of health care and higher education in the state, Dr. Ellison says. "He had the concept of bringing together a governing body for Georgia public universities and of establishing a public health system in the state," she says. "His son went on to serve on [former MCG President William H.] Moretz's Advisory Council and his grandson, Dr. John B. Hartman ('68) is executive director of the Carter Center in Atlanta." Dr. Ellison's articles will detail the contributions of alumni such as Dr. Hardman whose political efforts touched the lives of countless Georgians.

- Establishing an MCG museum. This is a longtime dream of several members of the MCG community, and the MCG Arts in the Hospital Committee recently identified the project as a priority. "I plan to take the ideas of others for a museum and try to bring them to fruition," Dr. Ellison says. She welcomes those with MCG memorabilia to contact her about possible inclusion in the museum. One former staff member ran into Dr. Ellison in the grocery store and seized the opportunity to donate memorabilia, including portrait nameplates of deans from 1906 to 1934. She's also received an original invitation to MCG's 1896 commencement. "These items are priceless," Dr. Ellison says. "We need an appropriate place to put them."

Dr. Ellison realizes her goals are lofty, but she is committed to the success of her projects. "The Medical College of Georgia will be celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2003. That's our target date. All these projects tie in together; they all celebrate the university and preserve its history."

Dr. Ellison invites members of the MCG community to contact her with information or contributions to her projects at:

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(706) 721-4012 (fax)
ellisonl@mail.mcg.edu (e-mail)

Hope in Haiti

Christine Hurley Deriso

Dr. David Addiss's first encounter with lymphatic filariasis came via the sterile pages of a textbook.

The bland prose provided facts but couldn't begin to capture the horror of the debilitating, disfiguring disease that affects an estimated 120 million people throughout the Tropics. The disease, in which legs, feet and male genitalia can swell grotesquely to many times their normal size, is the second-leading cause of permanent disability worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

"Just like everybody else, I believed what was written in textbooks," said Dr. Addiss, a 1981 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine and deputy chief of the Epidemiology Branch, Division of Parasitic Diseases, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "And according to the textbooks, there was no hope."

Dr. Addiss knew just what a damning conclusion that was. For 10 years, he's made frequent trips to Haiti and has witnessed the devastation of lymphatic filariasis, a mosquito-transmitted parasitic disease. Victims are infected with microscopic roundworms that live and breed in the lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, particularly in the groin area.

For some, the disease is largely asymptomatic. But others suffer horribly as fluid backs up from damaged lymphatic vessels. Some men with the disease actually must carry their swollen

genitals in a wheelbarrow to move from one point to another. Other victims can't walk at all due to their enormous legs and feet. Resulting bacterial infections are rampant. The disease generally isn't fatal, but for those with severe symptoms, any semblance of a normal life is nothing but a memory. Work is generally out of the question, which in poverty-stricken Haiti can be near-fatal in itself.

Dr. Addiss has devoted much of his career to reversing the chilling conclusion of the textbooks. "What I found out is that these patients can be treated," he said. "That hope has energized me."

Efforts to control the disease by killing off the mosquitoes that carry the worms, or filaria, have proved ineffective. The insects are simply too hearty. Improved sanitation has been effective in some areas—for instance, lymphatic filariasis in Charleston, S.C., was quelled in the 1920s when the city developed a sewage system. But Haiti's infrastructure

is so frayed and its government so fragile that a similar effort there seems sorely elusive.

But two drugs are now available to declare war on lymphatic filariasis. Diethylcarbamazine, a very inexpensive drug, kills the microscopic worms in the blood, while albendazole, which has been donated by its manufacturer, SmithKline Beecham, enhances the effectiveness of DEC. Given together, a single dose of these drugs dramatically reduces the number of worms in the blood for up to a year. If the drugs are given to entire communities once a year for five to 10 years (the life span of the adult filarial worm), the transmission cycle can be permanently interrupted.

These potent weapons against lymphatic filariasis have spurred the World Health Assembly to identify "global elimination of lymphatic filariasis" as a priority.

"Thanks to new methods of diagno-



sis and treatment, we can not only stop transmission of the disease, but relieve the suffering of those currently affected," Dr. Addiss said.

The first step is to locate the victims; the disease tends to cluster in certain areas. Identifying these clusters will not only enable health care professionals to bring the drugs to those who need it but will offer insight into the nature of the disease. "It's a very interesting disease," Dr. Addiss said. "We don't really understand the underlying mechanisms very well."

But it's no easy task to identify these clusters. That's where Brian Stephens (right) comes in.

Brian, a second-year medical student at MCG, is always up for an adventure. His love of both medicine and unconventional experiences led him to the CDC, where he volunteered his services. He spent last summer in the Haitian community of Leogane to find victims of lymphatic filariasis. He stayed in the guest house of St. Croix Hospital, but the vast majority of his time was spent roaming the area on foot, horse or bicycle, equipped with a backpack and sophisticated equipment that links computer and satellite technology to track and map locations. As he traveled, the equipment homed in on his exact location. Brian helped further by typing in landmarks such as churches, markets or bridges. As he roamed Leogane, he noted the clusters of lymphatic filariasis on his computer, creating detailed maps identifying areas with the disease.

The CDC has worked with several volunteers to develop these maps, and



Dr. Addiss noted that Brian was particularly well-suited to the task. Some volunteers who arrive in Third World areas are so disheartened and overwhelmed by the poverty that they're virtually immobilized, Dr. Addiss said. "We'll end up just having to bring them back home," he said. "I was initially a bit concerned about Brian, because we didn't know him very well and weren't sure how he would cope with the conditions."

They needn't have worried. Brian immediately made himself right at home. For instance, horseback riding was never his forte, but in Haiti, he acquired enough experience to give Roy Rogers a run for his money. "The horses are really small by American standards and somewhat stubborn," Brian said. "The saddle consisted of a bulky wood frame with a few blankets, and there were no stirrups, so you can imagine that riding those beasts was always an experience. They knew one command: 'Ale kay ou!' ('Go home!') This usually sent them at a full run back to the village."

Other evidence of the cultural gulf was more sobering. "On one level, it's

very discouraging because the poverty is so severe," Brian said. "But I quickly realized the Haitians don't want people to feel sorry for them. The people have such a wonderful sense of vitality. The little kids make toys out of anything, and Haitians make the most beautiful artwork."

Although some of the locals regarded him with hostility and suspicion, most were wonderfully welcoming, he said. For instance, every time Brian's bicycle got stuck in the mud (a frequent hazard in a country hammered by flash floods), Haitians ran from every direction to help him. Once, Brian and a friend had to abandon a truck and run for their lives when a wall of water from a flash flood came roaring down Haiti's badly eroded mountain sides. The truck was buried in mud, and after several futile attempts to pull it out, a "houngan" (Haitian voodoo priest) assigned a guard to stay with the truck until Brian and his friend could come back the next day and try again to free it from the mud.

"They have a strong and very beautiful culture," he said. "Anything we can do to help them is good, as long as we're not trying to change who they are."

Much more work is needed to map lymphatic filariasis, but Brian's efforts will go a long way toward the goal of eradication, Dr. Addiss said. "The maps are really essential; they're the basis upon which a lot of important decisions will be made, and they will let us know where to send health workers who can provide drugs," he said.

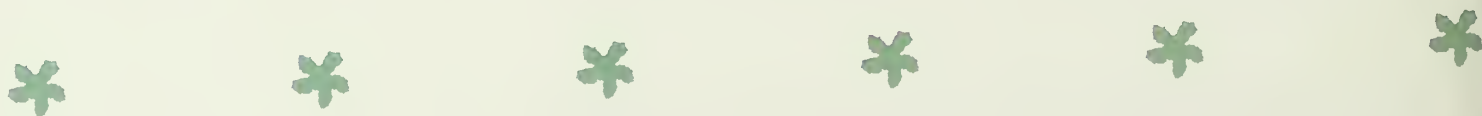
Brian was happy to help. "For me, it was a chance to go down there, help as much as I could and enjoy the experience," he said. "It was perfect in every way."





Photo courtesy of The Albany Herald.

Mission Accomplished



Christine Hurley Deriso

Dr. William "Billy" Mayher III is a man of few words, but he makes sure that each of them count—particularly when lives depend on it.

That just happened to be the case one Tuesday last fall when Dr. Mayher—a 1964 MCG graduate, president of the MCG Foundation, chairman of the

board of Gray Communications Systems, Inc. and a retired neurosurgeon from Albany, Ga.—was flying his twin-engine plane.

Dr. Mayher was flying to Fort Worth, Texas in his plane with mechanic Frank Folbry when they heard a distress call from another plane. Three mechanics from Mineral Wells,

Texas were test-flying a Piper Apache twin-engine plane when one—the pilot—had a heart attack at the controls. "We heard them screaming that the pilot was unconscious," Dr. Mayher recalled. "We tried to calm them down a little bit."

Luckily, few people have a more calming influence than Dr. Mayher.

"As a neurosurgeon, he has to be steady," said Dr. James B. Osborne, who as MCG vice president for university advancement and executive director of the MCG Foundation has worked with him for years. "He's got a lot of experience in making decisions and acting quickly. He applied that expertise to an emergency situation."

Dr. Mayher relayed instructions to the two mechanics in the unmanned plane. "I had flown a plane like that," Dr. Mayher said. "One of the mechanics [flying with the disabled pilot] had flown a single-engine plane, but never a multi-engine plane."

As Dr. Mayher relayed instructions, he flew in search of the plane. "We flew about 20 miles to find it," he said. He positioned his plane beside the other, accompanying the mechanics and leading them to the nearest airport. Once there, Dr. Mayher gave them landing instructions. Suddenly, another potentially deadly snafu surfaced. "Eddie [Reese, the mechanic following Dr. Mayher's flying instructions] said, 'I don't have any brakes!'"

The plane's brakes are on the pilot's side of the aircraft. Mr. Reese, flying the plane from the co-pilot's seat, couldn't reach them.

"They coasted to the end of the runway and stopped right at the very end," Dr. Mayher said. "They flew it in and actually landed it pretty well."

Emergency medical technicians were waiting at the airport to rush the ailing pilot to the hospital, where he died of his heart attack.

As tragic as the experience was, no one lost sight of just how much worse it could have been. "Eddie came up to me and said, 'I don't remember your name but I remember you're from Georgia, and your plane sure did look good out there,'" Dr. Mayher said. "I'm just glad we were up there to help them out."

As for Dr. Mayher's remarkable equilibrium throughout the ordeal, he notes dryly, "I didn't have any reason to panic. My plane was flying fine."

And has the experience made him wary of flying? Think again. "I've flown 20 hours this month alone."

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Retirement Plan Designations

In addition to the Social Security and Medicare systems, many supplement their retirement income with investments in individual retirement accounts, pension and profit-sharing plans, and other savings vehicles. In fact, on retirement, many people discover that most of their assets are invested in these plans.

Many also do not realize that, after providing for themselves and those who depend on them, these retirement investments afford many convenient and cost-effective charitable gift opportunities. With the growth in retirement and pension plan investments, many benefactors now choose to make a gift of their excess, or remaining, retirement funds once these funds are no longer needed. In addition to its simplicity, using retirement plan assets to make a gift offers tremendous tax advantages as well.

Qualified retirement plans receive favorable income tax treatment during an individual's lifetime. Generally, no income tax is due on the funds contributed and there is no income tax on the income and growth of the assets while in the plan. Income taxes are payable on the assets in the plan at the time they are received. These

qualified plans are offered in many forms: 401(K) plan, a defined benefit pension plan, stock bonus plan, money purchase plan, profit-sharing plan, annuity plan, Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP), or simplified employee pension (SEP-IRA) and Individual Retirement Accounts and Keogh accounts you set up for yourself.

For estate tax purposes, the entire undistributed amount of your qualified retirement is generally included in your gross estate. Income tax is added in addition to the estate tax since the funds in your retirement plan usually represent deferred compensation that was not subject to tax during your lifetime. This double taxation can seriously deplete the amount left in your retirement plan. Heirs of a retirement plan must, in most cases, receive a full distribution from the remaining assets within five years of the benefactor's death. In some circumstances, it must begin distribution within one year of the benefactor's death. A surviving spouse can roll over these distributions into their own IRA to continue to benefit from income tax deferral. However, all other heirs will be immediately taxed.

Taxation of Income in Respect of a Decedent is another issue you must consider in developing a strategy for your qualified retirement plan. Income in Respect of a Decedent (IRD) is defined by the IRS as assets in the estate that were not previously included in the decedent's taxable income. Basically, this is any asset that would have eventually been subject to income tax if the decedent had lived long enough to receive it. (Note that qualified retirement plans are not the only IRD items that may be in an estate. These assets can include accrued interest on Certificates of Deposit and savings bonds, unused vacation pay, non-qualified stock options, deferred payments of capital gains and other undistributed but earned income.) Your retirement accounts will most likely represent your largest source of IRD. You can see how, by using your retirement account assets to fund a gift, you can avoid both estate and IRD taxes. You can put 100 percent of your retirement assets toward support of your charitable objectives.

Example: Jane intends to make a significant contribution to the Medical College of Georgia Foundation at her death. In addition to many

appreciated stocks, Jane has a large qualified retirement plan likely to have a substantial balance at her death. She has made provisions in her will to make this gift and have the residue of the estate pass to her children. While this accomplishes Jane's wishes, it exposes her assets to unnecessary taxation. The balance of Jane's retirement plan is added to her gross estate and is subjected to estate taxes. The children will be subject to income taxation on any of the retirement plan assets they receive from the estate.

A more tax-friendly strategy for Jane and her family would be to name the MCG Foundation the beneficiary of her qualified retirement plan. The death benefit from the plan would then pass directly to foundation, avoiding estate taxes and income tax. Jane can then make bequests to her children with the appreciated stocks. This will provide for further tax savings. The children can receive these assets free of income taxes. Furthermore, with a step-up in cost basis for the stock, the children will never be taxed on the appreciation that occurred during Jane's lifetime. Naming a Charitable Remainder Trust the beneficiary of your retirement assets offers another



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tax-friendly opportunity. These plans can pay either a fixed amount or a fixed percentage of the value of the trust to individual(s) you designate as beneficiaries for their lifetimes or a fixed number of years. After this time, the remainder of the trust passes to the MCG Foundation. If a deferred giving plan, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust, is named the beneficiary of your qualified retirement plan, income taxes can be deferred over the life of the income beneficiary you designate.

Example: John participates in his company's qualified retirement plan that requires distribution within five years after his death. John estimates that the value of the plan at his death will be \$200,000. John wants to provide an inheritance for his son,

David. If John named David the beneficiary of his retirement plan, the entire amount would go to David as ordinary taxable income. This amount would be subject to an estimated \$55,000 in federal and state income taxes. Additionally, if John's other assets equaled more than the amount exempted from estate taxes, a federal estate tax of \$75,000 would be due. By transferring the retirement plan directly to David, only \$70,000 of the \$200,000 would be left after taxes!

If John creates a Charitable Remainder Unitrust and establishes it as the beneficiary of his retirement plan, he can eliminate much of this tax burden. When the unitrust is created, John arranges for 7 percent of the value of the assets to go to David for his lifetime. This

results in a significant income tax deferral. The entire \$200,000 can be invested to produce investment income. Since MCG will receive the remainder of assets in the unitrust at David's death, John's estate qualifies for a current estate tax charitable deduction for the present value of the charitable remainder interest. Note that the present value of the charitable remainder interest that qualifies for an estate tax deduction will be less than the entire value of the assets transferred to the trust. The remaining value may be subject to estate taxation. Since the tax liability cannot be paid out of the trust assets, other assets must be available.

Also note that if your retirement plan distributes directly to your estate and then the will distributes to a

charitable organization or a deferred giving plan, the result may be a recognition of taxable income from the retirement plan. Fortunately this can be avoided by simply arranging for the assets to be transferred directly from the retirement plan to the charitable organization or deferred giving plan, bypassing the estate's reportable income. This is accomplished by completing the necessary paperwork for your plan. Your employer or financial institution can help you make the designation, using a simple form available at your request.

For information on planning your giving, please contact Bruce Howerton or Troy Breitmann at 1-800-869-1113. Of course, all financial decisions should be discussed with your legal and tax advisors.



Alumni News

Homecoming Scheduled April 27-30

The Medical College of Georgia will celebrate Homecoming 2000 April 27-30. The following activities are planned for alumni, faculty and students. For more information, contact the MCG Alumni Office at 1-800-869-1113.

Accommodations

Hotel rooms have been secured for MCG Homecoming participants at the following hotels. Guests are responsible for making reservations with the hotels.

- Comfort Inn, 1455 Walton Way, (706) 722-2224
- Partridge Inn, 2110 Walton Way, (706) 737-8888
- Radisson Riverfront Hotel, Two Tenth Street, (706) 722-8900
- Radisson Suites Inn, 3038 Washington Road, (706) 868-1800
- Sheraton Augusta Hotel, 2651 Perimeter Parkway, (706) 855-8100

Addresses of Homecoming event sites

- Alumni Center, 919 15th Street, Augusta
- Radisson Riverfront Hotel, Two Tenth Street, Augusta
- Old Medical College, 598 Telfair Street, Augusta
- Pinnacle Club, 699 Broad Street

For all alumni

- On-site registration, Alumni Center, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and April 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Homecoming hospitality suite, Radisson Riverfront

Hotel, second floor (banquet room level), April 28-29, open 11 a.m. to midnight. Refreshments available. Alumni are invited to gather with former classmates and bring old photographs, year-books, scrapbooks, movies or other mementos of their time together.

- Tours of MCG Hospital and Clinics, April 28, 10 a.m., beginning at the MCG Alumni Center.
- Student Government Association cookout, April 29, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., MCG Alumni Center.
- President's Reception, April 29, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 920 Milledge Road.
- Homecoming dance, April 29, 9:30 p.m. until, Radisson Riverfront Hotel, cash bar, entertainment by Tony Howard Show and Band.
- Contact our office if you'd like to arrange a golf game. We will set up tee times for you.
- Guided tours of the Augusta Canal in canoes and kayaks are available April 28 at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. For more information, please contact the MCG Alumni Office.

School of Allied Health Sciences events

- Department of Associated Dental Sciences Program: "A New Millennium—Answering the Challenge," April 28, registration at 7:30 a.m., program 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., six CEUs, MCG Alumni Center Ballroom.
- School of Allied Health Sciences Alumni Association luncheon and presentation of Distinguished Alumnus Award to Jeanette D. Rasche (Medical Illustration, '90), April 28, noon, Old Medical College, \$12 per person.

School of Dentistry events

- 22nd Annual Marvin Goldstein Lectureship, April 28, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m. registration), Radisson Riverfront Hotel. Guest lecturer: Dr. John Kanca III. No registration fee. The Marvin Goldstein Endowment Fund covers all course expenses except the noon luncheon fee of \$25 per person.
- School of Dentistry Alumni Association business meeting, April 28, 9:45 a.m. during morning break of Goldstein Lectureship, Radisson Riverfront Hotel.
- School of Dentistry class of 1975 reunion, April 29, 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner, Radisson Riverfront Hotel, \$25 per person. Faculty members who taught while this class was in dental school are invited as guests of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association.

School of Graduate Studies events

- School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association board and annual meeting, April 27, noon, MCG Alumni Center Pine Room.
- School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award presentation/lecture and Graduate Student Research Day dinner, April 27, 5:30 p.m. The event will begin with registration and social gathering in the lobby, followed by a dinner buffet, awards presentation and lecture in the ballroom. This year's Distinguished Alumnus is Dr. Dennis J. Pillion (Pharmacology, '76). \$10 for alumni, faculty and their guests. Free to students and one guest each if



tickets are picked up from the dean's office by April 14; \$10 at the door.

School of Medicine events

- School of Medicine Dean's Reception, April 28, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Old Medical College.
- Alumni Association of the School of Medicine annual

banquet and presentation of Distinguished Alumnus Awards to Drs. Charles H. (M.D. '59) and Betty B. (M.D. '60) Wray, April 28, 7:30 p.m., Old Medical College, \$35 per person.

- School of Medicine Alumni and MCG Foundation Joint Development Committee meeting, April 29, 8:15

a.m., MCG Alumni Center.

- Alumni Association of the School of Medicine board meeting, April 29, 9:30 a.m., MCG Alumni Center.
- Reunion dinners for the School of Medicine classes of 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and a non-reunion dinner.

April 29, 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner, \$40 per person. All dinners will be held at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel except for class of 1960 reunion, which will be held at the home of Drs. Charles and Betty Wray, 3115 Ramsgate Road, Augusta.

- Memorial service for School of Medicine alumni, April 30, 10:30 a.m., Old Medical College.
- Emeritus Club luncheon and induction of the class of 1960, April 30, 11:30 a.m., Old Medical College, \$20 per person.

School of Nursing

- School of Nursing Alumni Association dinner, program and presentation of Distinguished Alumnus Awards, April 28, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:15 p.m. dinner, Pinnacle Club, \$25.

Class Notes

School of Allied Health Sciences

Rachel L. Mandel Wilson (occupational therapy assistant, '91), Marietta, Ga., has been named Outstanding Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant of the Year by the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association. She was honored for promoting occupational therapy practice and for her diverse clinical skills. She is a staff occupational therapy assistant at the Center for Rehabilitation Medicine at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Richard W. Waters ('86), Athens, Ga., just completed a nine-film training series for dental assistants for the Levin Group Inc. of Baltimore. He and his wife, Marie, wrote and produced the films, to be released later this

year. Dr. Waters left dentistry in 1993 due to carpal tunnel syndrome and has since published three books on dental communications. He is currently a film producer and lecturer.

School of Graduate Studies

Dr. Cathy J. Hatcher (Ph.D. in physiology, '98) recently presented a paper, "TBX 5 (A Transcription Factor) Regulation of Cell Proliferation Mediates Cardiac Morphogenesis" at the 72nd Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association in Atlanta. She is a postdoctoral fellow in cell and molecular biology at Cornell University Medical Center in Manhattan, N.Y.

School of Medicine

Dr. Joseph A. Blissit ('56) was recognized by Henry County Health Department for his 40 years of service to the area when the new health center was named in his honor of him.

Dr. William "Butch" Mulherin ('61), Athens, Ga., has retired after 33 years as University of Georgia Athletic Association physician. He began an orthopedics practice in Athens in 1966.

Dr. Charles L. Rice ('68) has been appointed vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He will continue as professor of surgery and professor of physiology/biophysics. He has been selected for *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*.

Dr. Allen Beck ('69) has lived in the mountain-ski resort of Crested Butte, Colo., for 12 years and opened the Coal Creek Wellness Center last summer. He is a regular storyteller in the area, doing several new stories a month for preschoolers, the library and other venues. Check out his Web site for Coal Creek Wellness Center and "The Doc is In" (excerpts from a column he wrote for several years for the local weekly) at <http://shell.rum.net/~occam/>

Dr. William L. Lanier Jr. ('80), Rochester, Minn., recently was named editor in chief of *Mayo*

Clinic Proceedings, the world's third-largest circulation indexed general/internal medicine journal. He is professor of anesthesiology at Mayo Medical School.

Dr. Mark F. Ellison ('82) was honored recently for his "distinguished service and dedication in the fight against cancer" by the Clarke-Oconee Unit of the American Cancer Society Auxiliary. He was guest of honor during the unit's 31st annual Gala Ball and Silent Auction Dec. 3 in Athens, Ga. The event was part of the Classic City Christmas Weekend coordinated annually by the auxiliary to raise funds for cancer research, education and treatment.

Dr. F. Stuart Sanders ('82), Clarkesville, Ga., an internal and sports medicine physician, has been named president of the Heart and Lung Foundation. He is a clinical associate professor of cardiology at the Emory University School of Medicine; director of the Habersham Cardiac Disease Reversal and Rehabilitation, Pulmonary Rehabilitation and LIFE Preventive Medicine Programs; director of sports medicine at Piedmont College; and past vice president of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

Dr. Gerald Holmes ('83 School of Medicine and '84 Department of Physiology) is chief of pediatric cardiology and director of the Children's Hospital Heart Center at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque, N.M. His wife, Joanna, holds dual certification in pediatric and adult cardiac sonography. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Heather Elyse.

Dr. Mark J. Quarterman ('91), Anderson, S.C., and Tricia announce the birth of their second daughter, Christina Lynn, Dec. 2. She joins sister Laura Elizabeth.

Obituaries

Dr. Warren Jeffrey "Jeff" Jones ('56), Portsmouth, Va., died Jan. 16. He practiced psychiatry and obstetrics/gynecology and was a Phi Chi member.

Deadline for submitting information for publication in the summer issue of AlumNews is April 28, 2000.

Alumni! Let us know what's new with you by taking a moment to fill out this form. Also, please send us your curriculum vitae so we can keep your files up-to-date.

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Please send to: Christine Hurley Deriso; FI-1042; Medical College of Georgia; Augusta, GA 30912; fax to (706) 721-6723 or e-mail to cderiso@mail.mcg.edu.

Dental Hygiene Student Begins New Life in U.S.

Deborah G. Steele

Her English is laced with a Spanish accent. Yet considering she's been in the United States for only six years, the 26-year-old has learned the language well.

Lorraine Obos, who came to the United States under political asylum from El Salvador, is a dental hygiene student at the Medical College of Georgia. "Oh, I miss it a lot," she said of her native city, San Vicente. "We got political asylum to the U.S. because my father had a print shop and terrorists wanted him to print pamphlets without the government knowing." The family fled to Honduras and managed to get back into San Vicente to gather a few belongings before coming to the United States.

"When I came here, I wanted to go to college bad, but I didn't have much English," said Lorraine. Following graduation from South Gwinnett High School in Snellville, Ga., where she was among the top 10 percent of her class of 93, Lorraine enlisted in the Army in hopes of learning more English.

The Army shipped Lorraine to Fort Jackson, S.C., for boot camp. She waited until a day before leaving to tell her parents. "I wanted to tell [my family] for a month, but I couldn't because I knew there was going to be problems," she said. Her mother cried endlessly and thought her

only daughter would only be gone for a short while.

After being stationed in Germany for four years, Lorraine returned to the United States and enrolled in DeKalb College (now Georgia Perimeter College) in Decatur.

While going to school, Lorraine held four jobs: a lab assistant, babysitter, housekeeper and dental assistant. She volunteered at a dentist's office as a dental assistant for a year and a half, but realized she wanted to do more. She was determined to go to school to become a dental hygienist.

"My family likes what I decided to do," she said.

Understandably, Lorraine gets frustrated when she can't make the connection between something in English and its Spanish counterpart. "It's hard to adjust to another culture. It's really hard," she said. "Sometimes when I'm reading, when I miss one word, I lose it all. I have to pull out my dictionary."

Dr. Tina Moses, who teaches a dental anatomy

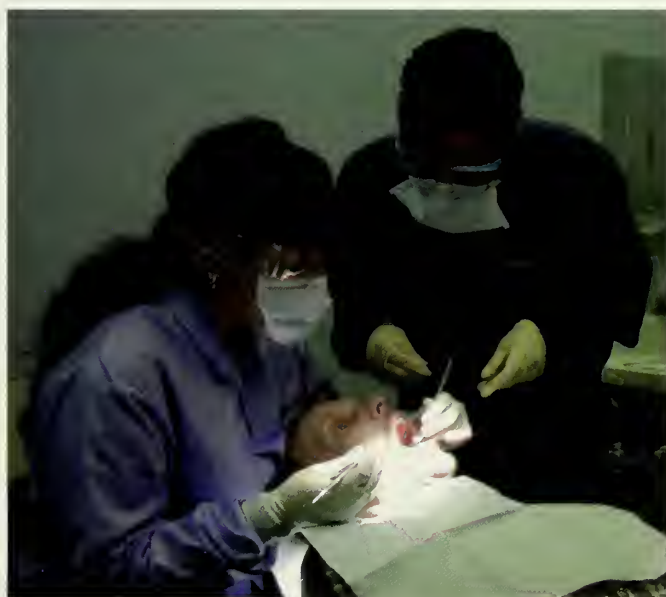
course to dental hygiene students and oversees the junior dental hygiene students in clinic, is amazed at what Lorraine can do. "She uses her thesaurus and her Spanish/English dictionary," said Dr. Moses, a 1999 graduate of the MCG School of Dentistry. "She amazes me. A lot of students get discouraged by how much studying they have to do, but not Lorraine. She gives it her all and then some."

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents recognized Lorraine's extra effort when grading the English essay she had to pass to go to college. The regents have published it in *The Polishing Cloth*, an annual collection of English essays and Regents' essays, which is used by English professors as a teaching tool.

"Let me confess to you, I was so nervous to take this test," said Lorraine. "I was like, 'I need to pass this test.'"

The Board of Regents chose Lorraine's essay as the outstanding ENSL—English as a Second Language—essay, as well.

Lorraine Obos examines patient



"To me, it was unbelievable," said Lorraine, who likes to write her friends and family often.

It's taken some adjusting to American culture and traditions, but Lorraine said she is happy to be in the United States. "I'm so happy to be here," she said, noting that she often catches herself writing class notes in Spanish. "I always think in Spanish. I'm thinking in Spanish now, and I never dream in English. If I see you in my dreams, you'll be talking in Spanish."

Lorraine has learned that anything is possible. "I've just learned that nothing is impossible in the world to do if you want to do it," she said. "Nothing."

Asthma Program Wins National Award

Sally Lofton Simkins

An educational program for children with asthma developed by respiratory therapy students at the Medical College of Georgia has been selected to receive a national award from the American Lung Association. The Volunteer Excellence Award for an Innovative Team Project will be presented May 7 at the annual meeting of the American Lung Association and the Canadian Lung Association in Toronto.

This award is the first to be awarded a project nominated by a Georgia affiliate of the American Lung Association.

The students who developed and implemented the program are Leslie Brewer, Brian Edalgo, Leslie Ford, Leslie Gray, Suzanne Hergoz, Yong Kwon, Sean Meadows, Mike Povenz, Amy Travis, Deirdre Walusis and Pam Williams. All are seniors in the two-year baccalaureate degree respiratory therapy program.

The project was undertaken in one of a series of problem-based learning courses offered in the new Respiratory Therapy Program curriculum in the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences.

"Last year, our respiratory therapy faculty made a commitment that patient education was very important for our students and we wanted to give them real-life experiences," said Dr. Randy Baker, a registered respiratory therapist and assistant professor in the MCG Schools of Allied Health Sciences and Graduate Studies.

"The field of respiratory therapy has grown and the care that we deliver to patients has changed in recent years," Dr. Baker said. "Patients are released from hospitals sooner and sicker. Families are faced with trying to deal with patients who may not be completely healthy."

Curricular changes reflect these changes in the health care arena. "Knowing that our students will be educating patients and their families, we looked at how we could better prepare them for their futures as practitioners," he said. "We must teach our students to be able to help patients understand the nature of their disease—that asthma, for example, can be controlled and that there are certain things that need to be worked on so they can do the

things they want to do. Asthma is a chronic disease and much education is involved."

To give the students the necessary background, creation of an asthma educational program was incorporated into their course work. After creating the program for children ages 6-12, they delivered it at Champ Camp, a day camp for children with asthma sponsored by the Augusta affiliate of the American Lung Association of Georgia.

The students built upon basic American Lung Association materials, according to Dr. Baker. "We were not there to re-invent the wheel; the wheel was out there. The students created a real-world application of materials that were there."

Activities and games were used, especially for the younger campers; role playing was incorporated into the program for the older ones. "The students also incorporated some general health principles into the program, as well as comprehensive social skills such as communication skills that can be used within the context of their asthma and beyond," he said.

Dr. Baker said he often let the students work on their own as a group. "We tried to guide them through with periodic meetings but I let them go quite a bit and it all came together," he said.

The team accomplished more than would likely have been possible if the members were working individually, Dr. Baker said. The culmination of their project was putting it into action and spending the week with the kids.

"They had lunch with the kids, tie-dyed shirts with the kids," said Dr. Baker, who also

is an ALA volunteer. "Actually delivering the education and getting to know the kids gave them a much better appreciation for the way children with asthma feel and for some of the challenges they face."

Alumnus, Student Win Awards

A faculty member and student in the Medical College of Georgia Department of Respiratory Therapy received awards recently at the international congress of the American Respiratory Care Foundation.

Rick Hall, instructor, received the William F. Miller, M.D. Postgraduate Award, given to a respiratory care practitioner in an advanced-degree program of a fully accredited school. Mr. Hall graduated from MCG in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy and completed his thesis defense this semester at MCG for a master of science degree in allied health sciences.

Deirdre Walusis received the Morton B. Duggan Jr. Memorial Award, given to an outstanding candidate enrolled in an accredited respiratory care training program. Ms. Walusis, a senior in the two-year baccalaureate program, also recently was awarded a Lambda Beta Scholarship from the Lambda Beta Society, the national honor society for respiratory care.

Respiratory Therapy Graduates Ace Exams

Sally Lofton Simkins

The 1998 class of the respiratory care program in the Medical College of Georgia School of Allied Health Sciences received perfect scores on the entry-level licensure examination and on the written portion of the advanced practice examination of the National Board for Respiratory Care. The class scored 95 percent on the clinical simulation portion of the two-part advanced practice exam.

"Our students have historically received a 100 percent pass rate on the entry-level examination," said Dr. Shelley Mishoe, program chairman. "Our pass rate on the advanced-practice exam also has been 100 percent, although not necessarily on the first-time applicants. This is something our program has strived for for many years. We have kept improving and moving up every year and have been far above the national average on each examination.

"This class of 1998 breezed through all three."

Passing the entry-level examination certifies applicants as respiratory therapists. The advanced examination gives the registered credential. MCG students enter the program as college juniors and earn a baccalaureate degree. Comprehensive standardized national exams are included as part of their exit from the program. "It is our way of

assuring that we are graduating competent practitioners," Dr. Mishoe said. "Our students cannot advance or continue in the program without passing these exams."

Dr. Mishoe said the success of the MCG respiratory therapy students indicates the effectiveness of curricular changes made to accommodate MCG's conversion from a quarter system to semesters and to reflect changes in health care.

Curricular changes included a shift in emphasis away from primarily preparing graduates for acute-care hospital settings. "Semester conversion requirements provided us a great opportunity to make wide changes," she said. "Now there is increased emphasis on wellness, health promotion and patient education.

"Consequently, our graduates are more aware of all the career opportunities available to them," she said. "They are not necessarily looking, as in the old model, to work in a hospital, which we all know is not where the practice is any more.

"Changes in the program have prepared our graduates for changes that have occurred in health care in general. Our curriculum has been keeping up with the times and we've worked to be sure that our graduates are what employers and the health care industry are looking for."

Dr. Mishoe said data show that MCG respiratory care graduates are more competitive than those from other respiratory therapy programs.

"One of the issues in health care today is that some facilities aren't as willing to take students on clinical

The Partridge Inn

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rotations as in the past," she said. "That is not the case with our students. Our experience is, our affiliates call us and ask us to send more of our students on location.

"The feedback is that our students are a good influence on their staffs because the students are so enthusiastic and well-prepared."

Dr. Mishoe said MCG respiratory care graduates are

filling niches outside traditional roles. "They are better prepared on the costs of health care and are coming up with less expensive, more effective treatments for managing respiratory and cardiopulmonary diseases."

Emergency Clinic Rotation Considered Valuable

Deborah G. Steele

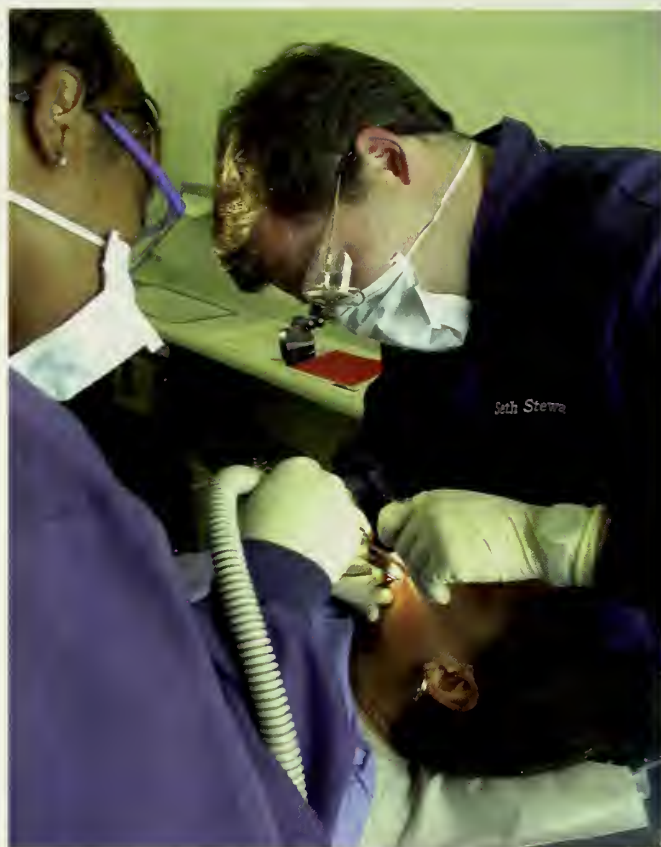
"Why did you come in today?"

senior dental student James Tyrer is overheard asking a patient. "Where does it hurt?"

For James, performing a complete diagnosis and treatment plan for a patient is exhilarating. Making sure he does it right is of utmost importance. "I think it has definitely increased my capacity to diagnose and treat a variety of cases," James said of his rotation through the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry's emergency clinic. "It's one of the best opportunities to learn here at the dental school because it is a real-world experience."

The emergency clinic opened in August 1993 under the guidance of Dr. Wayne Herman, an associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Patient Services. "The dean and my department chair [Dr. Robert Comer] realized this was a primary need," he said. "One of the best aspects of the experience is the student takes a patient whom he has never seen before, rapidly gets to know the patient, finds out his problem, makes a diagnosis and presents treatment options to the patient."

Most patients seen in the emergency clinic don't have a regular dentist. "The majority



Senior dental student Seth Stewart is assisted by Angela Jenkins, a dental assistant, during a recent afternoon in the MCG School of Dentistry's emergency clinic. Senior dental students experience emergency dental situations at the clinic and have called it one of the school's best rotations.

of our patients simply do not have a regular dentist but are having a dental problem that requires immediate attention," said Dr. Beverley Farley, an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Patient Services.

Knowing how to handle a patient in pain and helping alleviate that pain is the name of the game for senior dental students rotating through the clinic. "This is probably the first experience they have in dental school where they take the bulk of their education and apply it," said Dr. Farley. "Basically, this is problem-based learning in action because they have to take

everything they have learned and put it into action."

When a student enters the emergency clinic, he must use everything he has learned to evaluate the dental and medical condition of his patients, diagnose the patient's condition and devise and implement a treatment plan.

"The main benefit of this setting is you have to teach yourself to make a diagnosis because the patient is in pain and needs dental attention," said senior David Goodchild. "It's like the real world. It's no doubt going to be helpful for us when we get out in practice."

Fionn Thomas agrees. "Personally, I think the

emergency clinic is the most beneficial of the rotations because it's more close to the real world," he said. "This is basically private practice. When people come in with pain, you have to quickly diagnose the problem and offer treatment."

The students see patients who have dental pain, dental infections, broken restorations and broken partials or dentures. Sometimes a patient will come in with general pain and won't know what's causing it. When students are unsure what to do or need reassurance of their diagnosis, they consult the attending professor.

Students are rising seniors when they begin their rotation through the emergency clinic. Four students rotate through for a week at a time. "They are initially very nervous because it is the first time they are left to make a decision," said Dr. Farley. "It's the first time they are being challenged to pull it all together and when they succeed—and they all do—it instills in them a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem."

"I think certainly, at this point, we haven't treated many patients who are medically compromised and that's part of this clinic," said David, who had seen a patient with neck injury. "You have to know how to provide dental care for medically complex patients."

Dr. Herman said manning the emergency clinic can be challenging at times when complications develop and require the attending professor to give the patient his complete attention. "I think it has been a positive experience for students," he said. "It's very definitely a growing

experience for them. It requires them to think on their feet and respond in an appropriate manner. What they are learning are essential skills for them as practitioners."

Approximately 2,500 patients are seen each year in the emergency clinic. The clinic is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday when school is in session. To use the emergency clinic, call the School of Dentistry's Admissions Office at 721-2371.

"Celebration of Dentistry" to Honor MCG Professor, Graduate

Deborah G. Steele

Hunter Rackley remembers when in the mid-1960s the Georgia Dental Association voted to support a new dental school in Augusta. He was vice president of GDA at that time and from the time his vote was cast until today, he has been actively involved in the MCG School of Dentistry. His colleagues will award him the Pankey/Dawson Study Club Lifetime Achievement Award at its annual "Celebration of Dentistry" to honor his involvement with members of the profession and the high standards he sets for himself.

During the event May 5-6, MCG School of Dentistry Class of 1989 graduate Dan Cassidy will also be remembered for his dedication to the dental profession with the

establishment of a postgraduate scholarship in his name. Dr. Cassidy died in 1998. The "Celebration of Dentistry" will be held at the Marriott Evergreen Resort at Stone Mountain Park.

The Pankey/Dawson Study Club, begun in the early 1990s, was formed by MCG School of Dentistry graduates Tom McDonald ('83), Jimmy Cassidy ('83) and Jeff Houston ('87) along with Terry Fohey, a certified dental technician at NuCraft Dental Arts Inc., in Bogart, Ga.

"When [Dr. Glenn] Alex ('87) moved to town, we decided to meet monthly at a lab to learn to be better at doing dentistry," said Mr. Fohey. "We got cases together to discuss how to treat the patients. Dr. Rackley suggested we form a study club, so we decided to name it the Pankey/Dawson Study Club."

The organization is named for the late Dr. L.D. Pankey, founder of The L.D. Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education in Key Biscayne, Fla., and Dr. Pete Dawson, founder and leader of the Center for Advanced Dental Studies in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"We believed the way they were teaching was the way dentists should be taught," said Mr. Fohey. "[Naming our study club after them,] was our way of honoring them, our way of saying thank you for doing this for dentistry."

Dr. Rackley, a 1944 graduate of the former Emory School of Dentistry and a clinical professor in the MCG Department of Oral Rehabilitation, said it is quite an honor to be recognized by the study club.

"It is a humbling experience to have been notified that I am to receive the

Lifetime Achievement Award in May from the Pankey/Dawson Study Club for Advanced Dentistry," said Dr. Rackley, who has served two terms as president of the GDA. "Nothing could have meant more to me at this stage of my career and life than the influence, camaraderie and achievement of others that we've shared through the Pankey/Dawson Study Club. To be lauded by the club with the Lifetime Achievement Award is an immeasurable honor."

Another big moment during the "Celebration of Dentistry" will be the establishment of a postgraduate scholarship in Dr. Cassidy's name.

"The proceeds from this annual meeting have previously been donated to the American Liver Foundation," said Mr. Fohey. "One of the members suggested we establish a scholarship in Dan's name because he believed deeply in what we support—principle-based dentistry. So, with the proceeds from this year's event, we will establish that scholarship."

The \$1,400 tuition price includes a \$500 tax-deductible donation to the Daniel L. Cassidy Post-Graduate Scholarship Fund, in addition to attendance at several seminars.

"I can think of no better way to shine a light on Dan Cassidy," said Mr. Fohey of the scholarship.

For more information about the "Celebration of Dentistry," call Terri Heath at 1-800-241-8614.

Goldstein Lectureship Slated

Deborah G. Steele

The Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry's 22nd Marvin Goldstein Lectureship will be held Friday, April 28 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta. Dr. John Kanca III, a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, will be the distinguished Goldstein Lecturer. He will discuss various aspects of adhesive dentistry.

Dr. Kanca is a member of local, state and national professional dental societies. He maintains a private practice in Middlebury, Conn., that emphasizes cosmetic dentistry. He is a founding member and past president of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and is a member of the International Association of Dental Research and the Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. Dr. Kanca has held teaching positions at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and New York University in New York City. He holds fellowships in the academies of General Dentistry, Dental Materials and Cosmetic Dentistry.

Recognized worldwide as a leading authority on dental adhesion, Dr. Kanca frequently lectures throughout the world, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. He has numerous publications, including a landmark paper on acid-etching and the dental pulp. He was the first clinician to

produce a gap-free composite restoration in-vivo and pioneered the concept of "wet bonding" to dentin.

Continuing Education Courses Offered

The Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry will sponsor the following continuing dental education courses this year:

- Porcelain Veneers, Provisional Restorations, Indirect Tooth Color Restorations Smile Analysis and Intra-Oral Cameras (participation course), April 7-9, Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta
- 22nd Annual Goldstein Lecture, April 28, Radisson Riverfront Hotel, Augusta
- 15th Annual Symposium on General Dentistry, July 2-8, King and Prince Beach Resort, St. Simons Island, Ga.
- 18th Annual Dental Hygiene Symposium, July 14-16, Savannah Marriott Riverfront, Savannah, Ga.
- 24th Annual Participation Course on Clinical Anatomy of the Head and Neck, July 14-17, MCG campus
- Fabrication of Provisional Crowns and Fixed Partial Dentures for Dental Auxiliaries, July 22-23, MCG campus
- Summer Continuing Dental Education, Aug. 4-6, King and Prince Beach Resort, St. Simons Island, Ga.
- Comprehensive Review of Fixed Prosthodontics, Sept. 14-17, Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta

- 15th Annual Specialize Your General Dentistry, Oct. 6-8, Hyatt Regency, Savannah, Ga.
- Dental Update for the General Practitioner, Oct. 20-22, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, Ga.
- Clinical Procedures and Materials in Restorative Dentistry, Nov. 3-5, Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta
- Last Chance Continuing Dental Education, Dec. 7-8, MCG campus
- Oral Health Care of Patients with HIV Disease, online correspondence at www.HIVdent.org

For more information about these programs, call the MCG Continuing Education Office at (706) 721-3967.

Dr. Sherrer Remembered with Fondness

Deborah G. Steele

Those who knew Jack Sherrer Sr. say his memory will live forever. The Associate Professor Emeritus at the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry will be remembered for his compassion and endearing traits.

A former colleague recalls how Dr. Sherrer would sit and read to co-workers when they were sick. "He was just a unique person," said Debbie Nunley, administrative coordinator in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation.

Dr. Sherrer died Dec. 23 at age 71 in Augusta. At a

Christmas Eve funeral service, family and friends remembered the retired dentist for his contributions to the profession as well as his contributions to mankind.

Dr. Sherrer joined the MCG School of Dentistry faculty in 1972 as an assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry. He was named associate professor in 1977. In 1992, Dr. Sherrer was named associate professor in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation.

During his tenure at MCG, Dr. Sherrer served as director of the MCG General Practice Residency Program and was recognized for his work through numerous awards and honors. He was named an honorary alumnus of the MCG School of Dentistry Alumni Association in 1982 and an honorable fellow of the Georgia Dental Association in 1984. He received the Judson C. Hickey Award and the American College of Dentists Faculty Professional Award.

Dr. Sherrer is survived by his wife, Katharine Avery Sherrer; a son, Jack D. Sherrer Jr., Columbus, Ga.; two daughters, Kathy S. Welch, Marietta, Ga., and Cindy S. Taylor, Lawrenceville, Ga.; and nine grandchildren.

Check out MCG's Web site, www.mcg.edu, for continually updated campus and alumni information.

Research Targets Initial Heartbeat

Toni Baker

Finding the genes responsible for the very first beat of a baby's heart is the goal of a Medical College of Georgia researcher.

Dr. Simon J. Conway, developmental biologist and geneticist, wants to know what initiates the heartbeat in a 22-day-old embryo so he can learn what causes babies to develop a potentially lethal heart defect called persistent truncus arteriosus.

Instead of having two big vessels leading from the heart—one to pump oxygen-rich blood to the body and the other to get oxygen-depleted blood back to the lungs—babies with this condition, often called 'blue babies' at birth, have one vessel.

Pediatric heart surgeons can repair the anatomical defect just after birth. But about half these babies also have a more deadly component of the defect: a poorly beating heart.

At about day 22 of development, the human heart, still developing and growing, becomes the first organ to function, Dr. Conway said. Although the mother still delivers oxygen to the embryo, the developing baby's heart must help pump blood through the body. "So from day 22 onward, the baby's heart has to be working or the embryo won't form normally," he said.

By studying an animal model for persistent truncus arteriosus, he has learned that



Dr. Simon J. Conway

with this defect, the weakened heart muscle never works correctly. "We have found that from the very first heartbeat, these mouse hearts are sick," Dr. Conway. "That's why we are trying to look at the genes responsible for the first heartbeat."

Some key steps already are known in the process that initiates the heartbeat. PAX3 is a master gene that switches on other genes that give rise to the beating heart. One of these is a gene that enables calcium to enter heart cells. "Calcium is the switch, the signal that makes the heart beat," he said. "Calcium comes into the heart cell, builds up and that cell con-

tracts. If a lot of cells contract in unison, that is the heartbeat."

He thinks the culprit in persistent truncus arteriosus may be the genes expressed sometime after PAX 3 and before the calcium channel gene.

"In the mouse model this gene is mis-expressed from the very first heartbeat," he said. In fact, the animals die in what is the human equivalent of the end of the first trimester. In humans, doctors believe that serious heart problems, such as persistent truncus arteriosus, may be a factor in up to 20 percent of spontaneous miscarriages and 10 percent of stillbirths. "But

if you can prevent the first thing from going wrong, you may be able to prevent the heart defect and the lethality at the end," he said.

His goal is for persistent truncus arteriosus to be identified during the first trimester using sophisticated ultrasonography. Then pharmacologic intervention, for example giving a drug to the mother that enhances calcium channel function, will strengthen every heart beat. The work may affect adults as well because the weakened heart muscle of these embryos is closely akin to the congestive heart failure that can accompany advanced, adult heart disease.

Initial funding for Dr. Conway's research came from the March of Dimes' Basil O'Conner Research Starter Scholar Award. In 1998, Dr. Conway was one of five researchers in the country to receive the \$100,000 two-year award that helps support young investigators. He has subsequently obtained funding from the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association.

Study Sheds Light on Intraocular Pressure

Toni Baker

Detailing the intricate communication that maintains a healthy pressure inside the eye is the focus of study by Medical College of Georgia researchers.

By understanding the nor-

mal, numerous steps it takes to balance fluid moving in and out of the eye, it is possible to find better drugs to treat glaucoma, the vision-destroying disease resulting from high intraocular pressure, said Dr. Ata A. Abdel-Latif, biochemist and Regents professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

MCG researchers are tracing the biochemical pathways taken so that nerves can control muscles. The pathway begins where nerves release signal-carrying neurotransmitters that head for receptors on eye muscle cells. The message must then be carried inside the cells to activate another series of events which ultimately results in muscles contracting or relaxing.

His model is the iris-ciliary body in the front of the eye. The iris contains sphincter and dilator smooth muscles that enable the pupil to contract, relax and adjust to available light. The iris-ciliary body also contains ciliary muscles, which reshape the lens, and finger-like ciliary processes that come out of the ciliary muscle and secrete fluid into the front of the eye.

Dr. Latif, who has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1965, recently received a \$694,951, three-year grant to continue his work.

His study of the iris-ciliary body has yielded a wealth of information about a complex communication process that happens countless times each day and damages vision when it goes awry. And although his work has centered on the eye, it has implications for better understanding cell activity throughout the body.

He has found one way the cell membrane is penetrated

and so activated by a neurotransmitter. Dr. Latif identified the lipid, polyphosphoinositide, on the cell surface which is metabolized after the receptor is activated. This results in production of a "second messenger," called inositol trisphosphate, or IP3. This second messenger enables the cell membrane to be penetrated so calcium ions inside can be mobilized and the cell activated. Inside the cell, he has identified a half-dozen intracellular events—called signal transduction—which cause the proper response from the activated cell and he is looking for more.

Also identified are three nervous systems involved in producing neurotransmitters and other substances that result in muscle contraction and production of fluid between the cornea and lens: the sympathetic, parasympathetic and sensory nervous systems. "We found that the sympathetic, parasympathetic and sensory nervous systems interact, or cross-talk, with each other both at the chemical and functional levels," Dr. Latif said.

The sympathetic nervous system inhibits the parasympathetic system through the second messenger, cyclic AMP, he found. The parasympathetic nervous system works through another second messenger, IP3, to mobilize calcium ions inside the cell and eventually foster muscle contraction. By inhibiting the parasympathetic system, muscles relax. The precise targets and mechanisms for this inhibition are under investigation in several labs, including Dr. Latif's.

"We need to know all the biochemical steps which occur

at the neuromuscular junction, where the nerves and muscles meet, starting with the release of the neurotransmitter, which is the signal, its binding to the receptor protein and its initiating a sequence of intracellular events," Dr. Latif said.

Current glaucoma treatments target receptors involved in fluid secretion or those involved in removing fluid into the body's venous system through the trabecular meshwork and Schlemm's canal, at the base of the iris. "If we understand how those receptors work through these mechanisms and pathways then we can develop better drugs to manipulate them," he said.

Office to Expedite Technology Transfer

The University of Georgia Research Foundation Inc. will manage technology commercialization activities of the Medical College of Georgia Research Institute Inc. under a technology transfer collaboration agreement between the two universities.

"This agreement guarantees one-stop shopping for commercialization activities at the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia," said Lisa Kuuttila, director of the UGA Research Foundation Technology Commercialization Office.

"[The foundation's] technology commercialization office will be able to assist inventors, entrepreneurs, investors and companies interested in busi-



A portrait of Dr. Francis Behal, commissioned by the School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association, was unveiled during the School of Graduate Studies Christmas party Dec. 10 at the home of Dr. Matthew Kluger, dean of the School of Graduate Studies. David Mascaro, associate professor in the MCG Department of Medical Illustration, painted the portrait.

Dr. Webb Named Chairman

Toni Baker

Dr. R. Clinton Webb, a professor and researcher in the University of Michigan Department of Physiology, has been named Greenblatt Professor of Endocrinology and chairman of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Physiology and Endocrinology.

Dr. Webb also was named professor in the MCG School of Graduates Studies.

"We are fortunate to have an individual of Dr. Webb's qualifications to lead the academic and research efforts of the Department of Physiology and Endocrinology," Dr. Darrell G. Kirch, dean of the MCG School of Medicine and senior vice president for clinical activities, said in recommending the new chairman. "He is a outstanding scientist held in high regard by his colleagues, both nationally and internationally."

Dr. Webb earned a doctorate in anatomy from the University of Iowa in 1976. He completed postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan and the Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen Department of Medicine in Belgium. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1979 as an assistant research scientist, was named assistant professor the next year, associate professor in 1983 and professor in 1986. In 1996, he was a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico Department of Physiology and visiting research scientist at the Lovelace Institutes in Albuquerque.

ness opportunities based on both UGA and MCG technologies. We are already starting to see links among technologies, start-up companies and research opportunities on the two campuses."

Services include:

- evaluation of new ideas originating at UGA and MCG
- intellectual property protection
- marketing and licensing to established companies
- facilitation of start-up companies.

Working with spin-off companies is a high priority of the UGA Research Foundation Technology Commercialization Office. Besides leasing space to start-up companies at various locations on campus, the office provides business assis-

tance services to entrepreneurs and companies such as links to service providers, business partners, sources of financing, business school courses and students.

"The collaboration is a very positive development as part of the UGA initiative to develop and expand programs in the biomedical sciences and health," said Dr. Stuart Feldman, acting director of the UGA biomedical sciences and health initiative. "This partnership and the sharing of information with MCG will link research interests of faculty on our campuses leading to positive benefits to the institution and the state."

"We are very excited about the opportunities offered by this collaboration," said Betty Aldridge, executive director of

the MCG Research Institute, Inc. "The infrastructure supporting the intellectual property and technology transfer at UGA is strong. MCG faculty will benefit both from UGA's expertise in the commercialization of technology and as a result of increased opportunities to build research linkages between the two institutions."

As a separate, non-profit organization, the UGA Research Foundation secures funding for UGA research through gifts, contributions, grants, contract work and sponsored research. It also oversees all intellectual property-discoveries, innovations, inventions, patents and copyrights-developed through UGA research programs.

Computer Links Neurologists Worldwide

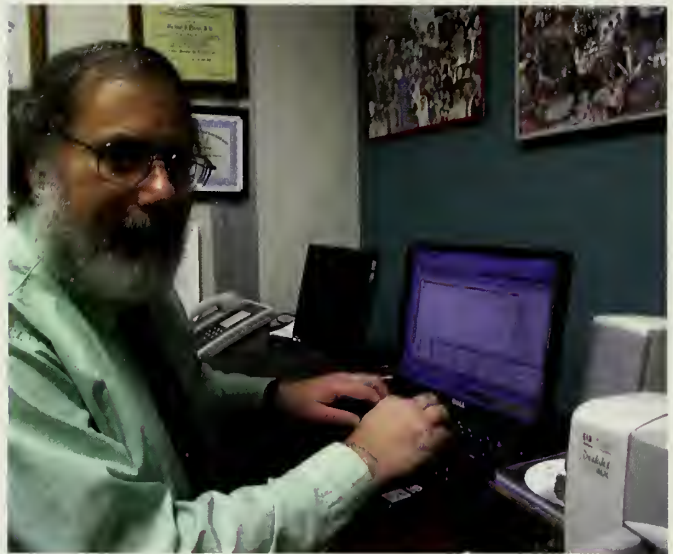
More than 800 neurologists worldwide are in daily contact, thanks to one neurologist's idea that his peers—and their patients—might benefit from this type of easy computer talk.

The genesis for Neurolist came in 1994 when the Medical College of Georgia Department of Neurology received discussion-list software as a bonus for buying an unrelated computer program.

Dr. Michael H. Rivner, neurologist and director of the electromyography laboratory, first used the software to set up a departmentwide list server and ease on-line discussions internally. But as e-mail gained momentum, Neurolist gained members and by 1997, the free software couldn't handle the increased traffic. That year, discussion list software was purchased from Lyris Technologies that had sufficient capabilities and Neurolist evolved into the world's premier neurology discussion group, Dr. Rivner said.

Shortly afterward, a similar group formed for neuro-psychologists—Npsych, administered by Dr. David W. Loring, director of MCG's Adult Neuropsychology Service—which has since grown to more than 800 members. That group discusses tests, training, credentialing and medical and legal applications of neuropsychology.

Neurolist's rise also has spawned NEURADM, a worldwide list server for administra-



Dr. Michael Rivner

tors of neurology, neurosurgery and neuroscience practice sites that also is based at MCG. Membership in that group, managed by William B. Hamilton, manager of the Department of Neurology, now has 145 members and discussions cover topics such as staff salaries, residency funding and managing clinical studies.

"This has really taken off," Dr. Rivner said of the idea that began on the Augusta campus and spread. "Basically we have set up a worldwide community of neurologists."

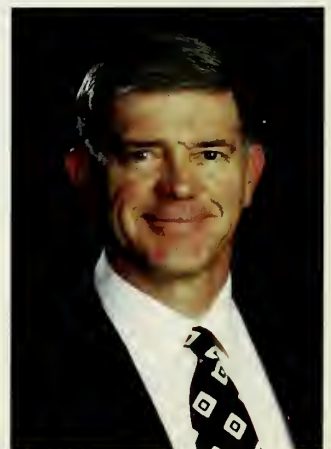
Dr. Smith Receives Humanitarian Award

Dr. Randolph R. (Randy) Smith, a 1970 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine, has received the 1999 Jack A. Raines Humanitarian Award from the Medical Association of Georgia.

Dr. Smith, a plastic surgeon in Augusta, is a fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, the Medical Association of Georgia, the Richmond County Medical Society and the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He has been a plastic surgery instructor at MCG since 1978.

He has lectured and volun-

Dr. Randolph R. Smith



teered his plastic surgery services throughout the world, including Nigeria, El Salvador and Poland.

Dr. Smith received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Clemson University in 1997. He received the Exchange Club of Augusta's 1997 Book of Golden Deeds Award and the Augusta Rotary Club's 1998 Paul Harris Fellowship. The mayor of Augusta proclaimed May 25, 1999 Randolph R. Smith, M.D. Day in honor of his community service.

Dr. Caruana Named Interim Chairman

Toni Baker

Dr. Ralph J. Caruana, professor and vice chairman of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Medicine, has been named interim chairman of the department.

Dr. John A. Hardin, a 1969 graduate of the MCG School of Medicine who has served as professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine since 1991, accepted a similar position at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

"Dr. Caruana is exceptionally well-suited to assume this position," Dr. Darrell G. Kirch, dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president for clinical activities, said in recommending him for the post. "He has had broad administrative experience and has contributed outstanding service to this institution."

Dr. Caruana is a 1974

graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed an internal medicine residency and nephrology fellowship at North Carolina Baptist Hospital of Wake Forest University's Bowman Gray School of Medicine before joining the MCG faculty in 1978. He left MCG in 1981 to return to Bowman Gray as a faculty member in the Nephrology Section where he remained until 1985 when he took a position as clinical associate professor of medicine at Temple University. He returned to MCG in 1986, was named chief of the Section of Nephrology in 1991, vice chairman of the Department of Medicine in 1995 and chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine in 1999.

Fellows Honored for Expertise

Toni Baker

Fellows in allergy and immunology at the Medical College of Georgia were recognized for their clinical knowledge and research skills at the recent annual meeting of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Drs. Andrea B. Lantz and Marc W. Cromie were winners in the Fellows-in-Training Bowl Competition, a question-and-answer contest between fellows from across the country.

Dr. Gena Bonitatibus from MCG received one of six \$28,000 clinical fellowship stipends in allergy and immunology.

Dr. Lantz also won fifth place for her research abstract, "Immunoglobulin Deficiency in Children with a Sudden Overwhelming Infection." Dr. Cromie won fourth place for his abstract, "Which Fungi Cause Allergic Fungal Sinusitis?"

Dr. Tim Crouch, MCG fellow, also presented his abstract, "Urticaria Due to New Cox-2 Inhibitor," at the meeting.

Dr. Prisant Named to Specialists Program

Toni Baker

Dr. L. Michael Prisant ('77), a Medical College of Georgia cardiologist who specializes in hypertension, has been designated a specialist in clinical hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension.

The society's Specialists Program recognizes physicians with expertise in managing clinical hypertension and related diseases. Dr. Prisant was among the first 550 physicians in the country to receive the 10-year designation.

Criteria included academic preparation and specific training in clinical hypertension, publications, research, participation on editorial boards and in journal reviews and recognition by other experts in the field.

Dr. Prisant is board certified in internal medicine, cardiology, clinical pharmacology and geriatrics. He is on the editorial board of four professional journals and is the

author or co-author of more than 200 abstracts, journal manuscripts, book chapters or monographs. He has had more than 40 sponsored research projects.

Alma Mater Honors Dr. Reese

Dr. Kenneth C. Reese ('86), an internal medicine physician for Summit Medical Group in Knoxville, Tenn., has been named to LaGrange College's Wall of Outstanding Alumni for the 1999-00 academic year.

Dr. Reese earned his bachelor's degree from LaGrange College in 1982. The Wall of Outstanding Alumni—portraits of alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions and communities—is displayed on campus. Current honorees will be featured through May.

While at MCG, Dr. Reese was a member of the Alpha Omega Honor Society. He is board-certified in internal medicine and was chief of staff at Taylor Regional Hospital in Hawkinsville from 1991 to 1992. He chairs the Stewardship Committee of First Farragot United Methodist Church, where he also serves as a youth counselor and co-teacher with wife Ondie of the adult Sunday school class.

Twins Are of Like Mind

Deborah G. Steele

Heads turn when Lyle and Lee Dorman are together. The 21-year-old identical twins from Manchester, Ga., look alike, talk alike and laugh alike. So it was predictable that the brothers chose the same career path.

Actually, the decision was a no-brainer. Their mother, Dixie, is a nurse anesthetist and they knew they wanted to follow her lead.

"That was the goal both of us always had—to go to nursing school and become nurse anesthetists," said Lyle. "Nursing, in general, appealed to me and I'm a Christian and Lee's a Christian, so we want to be in that role of helping others. I want to be able to calm the patient down and reassure him before the anesthesia is administered."

Lee, who boasts of being one minute older than his brother, said he once considered anesthesiology, but "the Lord just led me to go to nursing school and not medical school," he said.

The Medical College of Georgia senior nursing students also have turned a few heads among their classmates, who voted them class president and vice president. "It was our idea to run for the positions," said Lee. "[Lyle] said, 'I'm going to run for president,' so that pretty much decided it for me. I told Lyle we were keeping it in the family."

"[We know everything] going on with the class and we share an apartment, so we



Lyle and Lee Dorman

talk about it. It's like we're moving in the same direction," said Lyle.

The brothers have always done things together. They attended Middle Georgia College where they completed their core course requirements and met their girl friends—both of whom also went on to MCG. Lyle is engaged to Heather Hill, a senior occupational therapy student and president of her class. Lee is dating Christy Lewis, a senior nursing student.

While Lyle's July wedding looms, Lee dreads the loss of his roommate. "The separation is going to be the biggest thing," said Lee. "I'll go from seeing him every day to not seeing him all the time."

Still, the brothers say nothing can keep them apart for too long and nothing will

break down their friendship. They will apply for the 28-month nursing anesthesia program this summer with hopes of entering the program next fall.

"I think once we got into college and realized that we definitely wanted to go into nursing and heard about the nursing anesthesia program at MCG, we decided to come," said Lyle. "The prestige of it being a part of MCG and being in Georgia is something. When somebody mentions MCG, it's like, 'That's a top-notch school.'"

Lyle and Lee are excited about the future. "It's too far down the road to decide where I want to work," said Lee. "The biggest thing in our lives is God and Jesus Christ. Being in nursing, you are in a great place to witness."

"Being able to reassure

someone at the moment when they need comforting is a wonderful thing," said Lyle.

Alumni Association Broadens Horizons

Christine Hurley Deriso

Grants from the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing Alumni Association have enabled an alumna to share ideas with nurse educators throughout the world.

Dr. Patricia Cook, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from MCG, is an associate professor and assistant head of the School of Nursing at the University of South Carolina-Aiken. For the past three years, she has attended international nursing education conferences in England, interacting with approximately 175 nurses from England, Australia, Finland, Scotland and other nations. The conferences—Nurse Education Tomorrow International Participative Conferences for Education in Health Care held annually at Grey College at the University of Durham, United Kingdom—assign participants to small groups to discuss specific issues about nursing education.

"The conference is unique in that it's participatory," said Dr. Cook. "We present papers to a theme group. Over two days, we listen to all the group papers, then synthesize the information. It's an excellent way to get to know more about each other's expertise."

For the past two years, she has served as the convener of her group. "We talk about issues related to teaching nursing students, and our problems are not unique," she said. "Health care is changing in all the countries represented. Here in America, we have a big move toward community-based health care, and that's an issue in other countries as well. And all of us deal with limited funding. That dollar seems to be a common preoccupation."

In addition to the professional development, Dr. Cook has enjoyed learning more about England. For instance, she has visited St. Thomas Hospital in London, where Florence Nightingale developed her nursing school.

Dr. Cook received \$500 toward expenses for each of the past two conferences from the School of Nursing Alumni Association, of which she is a member. "A lot of people don't realize that the Alumni Association not only supports students, but is really there for graduates as well," she said. "When you travel professionally, any funding is helpful, and I'm very appreciative of the Alumni Association. I encourage other alumni to contact them for possible funding."

She has strong ties with the Alumni Association not only because of the grants, but because of the school it represents. She served on the faculty from 1983 to 1989 and was director of the school's Learning Resources Center from 1985 to 1989.

Every effort she's made for MCG has been a labor of love, she said. "I'm very proud of my MCG degrees. It's a wonderful school and prepared me well for my professional life."

Scholarship Honors Nurse Anesthetist

Deborah G. Steele

Shannon Powell still mourns her mother, who died a few years ago. That's why the recipient of the one-time Frances Rich Clark Scholarship is humbled to accept the \$1,200 award to memorialize a woman who was a nurse anesthetist, but above all, a mother.

The scholarship, established by Mrs. Clark's daughter after her mother's death in December, was presented to the Medical College of Georgia Nursing Anesthesia Program for a student who "shows promise as an outstanding" certified registered nurse anesthetist. Ms. Powell graduated from the program in December and works in the main operating room at MCG Hospital.

"I lost my mother a few years ago," said Ms. Powell, a 28-year-old single mother raising 5-year-old Alexandria. "Being able to remember your parent by helping someone else [as Mrs. Clark's daughter has one through the scholarship] is very special. Of course it's an honor. You can't deny that."

Mrs. Clark never attended MCG, but did hold the state's only nursing anesthesia program in high regard. She obtained her registered nurse degree from Piedmont Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta and graduated from Charity Hospital School of Anesthesia in New Orleans with high honors. Following

graduation, she returned to Georgia, where she worked as a registered nurse in Savannah, Ga. A year later, she moved to Atlanta and accepted a position at Georgia Baptist Hospital.

Mrs. Clark put her career on hold when her daughter, Kelly, was born. She resumed her career at the Emory Clinic, where she worked for 28 years until her death last December.

"[The Clark Scholarship] is very important to us as a program," said Ms. Powell. "It's the first of its kind and students in this program face mental and financial hardships. Receiving this makes me want to turn around and help someone out."

Program Focuses on Critical Thinking

Deborah G. Steele

Teaching students the critical-thinking skills they will need in the workplace is the focus of a new problem-based learning program implemented this fall at the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing.

The senior-level course places students in small groups to discuss case scenarios. The students are presented a case and must identify what they know about the situation, what they want to know and what they need to know, according to David Anna, an assistant professor in the Department of Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing. "It helps

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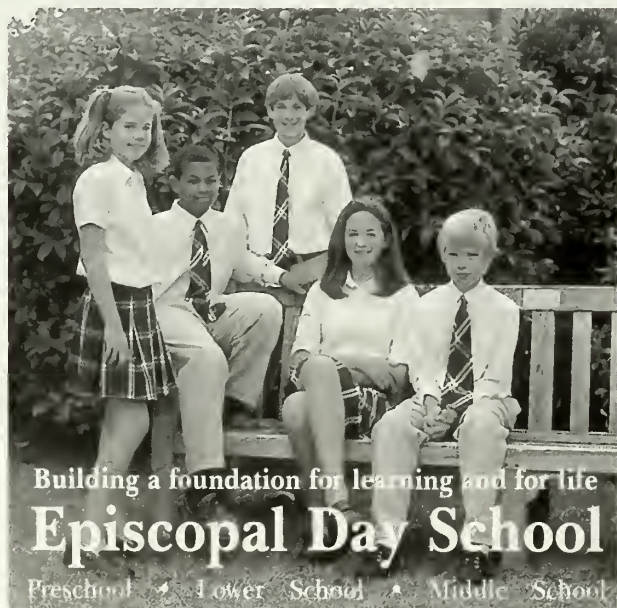
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them identify topics they do need to know, aren't as familiar with, but would like to be and polish their information retrieval skills," he said.

"It teaches them to track down information," said Robyn Havens, assistant professor in the Department of Adult Nursing. "They use textbooks, journals, experts in the field and the Internet."

"It teaches them what resources are good resources," said Mr. Anna.

"What nurses do on the floor is a process of assessing and thinking through a situation," said Ms. Havens. "We wanted to find a way to teach critical thinking that we knew was necessary for our students."

The concepts of problem-based learning are not new, according to Dr. Andy Albritton, an associate professor of general internal medicine at the MCG School of Medicine. The School of Medicine has been teaching problem-based learning courses since 1994. "This is about development of skills," he said. "We want our students to develop the skills that will help them be lifelong learners. We want them to be self-directed, communicate well with others and learn to work in groups. Problem-based learning is a process that provides students with the opportunity to develop certain skills."

Dr. Albritton conducted a two-day seminar on problem-based learning for the School of Nursing deans and course faculty. School of Medicine faculty acted as facilitators during the seminar.

"PBL is an appropriate vehicle to enhance the acquisition of critical-thinking skills," said Mr. Anna. "It's an

ideal way to begin developing critical-thinking skills even in junior nursing students. PBL really is a wonderful teaching modality to help nursing students make the [social, biological and psychological] connection to what we all encounter."

After analyzing the case, students give a presentation to their peers on the topic they researched. After the case, the faculty suggests if additional information should have been obtained. "All of the cases have been analyzed and the faculty know what concepts should have been discussed by the students," said Mr. Anna. "We know how we think the topics should have emerged, and our role as facilitators of learning is to help students look closely at the cases and realize that those concepts should have emerged."

Course faculty say the PBL class is more than just sitting in a classroom listening to a lecture for three hours. "Learning becomes fun," said Mr. Anna. "It's wonderful to assist them in taking responsibility for their learning and understanding of the clinical scenario."

Ms. Havens agrees and said her students have expressed interest in looking up information just for the sake of knowledge. "This sets up a natural curiosity," she said. "Sometimes the classroom stifles that creativity that the students have."

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